

THE TEACH ACT OF 2005

The *Teacher Excellence for All Children Act of 2005* addresses the most compelling problems facing the teaching profession so that all children will be taught by high-quality teachers and all teachers will have the supports they need to do their job well:

INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Problem: *There are not enough qualified teachers in our classrooms and an unprecedented number of teachers will retire over the next five years. Over the next decade, we will need to bring over two million new teachers into our public schools.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Provides financial incentives to encourage excellent teachers and principals to enter and remain in the profession and to elevate the standing of the profession, including competitive salaries, tax breaks, and *up-front* pre-paid tuition assistance for high-achieving undergraduate students who commit to teaching for four years and for current and prospective teachers in high-need fields, such as math and science.

IDENTIFYING AND REWARDING OUR BEST TEACHERS

Problem: *Research shows that individual teachers have the greatest impact on how well their students learn. Having a high-quality teacher throughout elementary school can offset – and even eliminate – the disadvantage of low socio-economic background.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Encourages our best teachers to remain in the classroom by recognizing exceptional veteran teachers through the development and use of data systems that can track student achievement gains, identify and improve teacher effectiveness, and inform instruction.
- Promotes the establishment of teacher career advancement ladders by augmenting the salaries of teachers who expand their knowledge and skills and take on new professional roles such as mentor and master teachers.

ENSURING ALL CHILDREN HAVE TEACHERS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE SUBJECTS THEY TEACH

Problem: *Many children—especially those in high-poverty schools—are taught by teachers who lack a major in the subject they teach. For example, 70 percent of math classes in high-poverty middle schools are taught by teachers without even a minor in math.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Provides funding for school districts to pay higher salaries to exemplary highly-qualified teachers and principals who transfer into the hardest-to-staff schools, with extra incentives for teachers in subjects in which there are shortages, such as math, science, and special education.

KEEPING THE BEST TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Problem: *Too many principals and teachers do not receive adequate preparation for their jobs or adequate training to improve during their first years on the job. As a result, over half of new teachers leave the profession within five years.*

TEACH Act Solutions:

- Helps new teachers transition into the classroom and build their skills through state-of-the-art induction programs that include proven strategies such as structured mentoring; common lesson-planning; intensive professional development; and a transition year into the classroom.
- Helps veteran teachers improve their skills through peer mentoring and review programs.
- Helps states overhaul and upgrade their principal certification and professional development programs, and to recruit and train talented new principals.